

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-20 (Cancelled)

21. (New) A load transfer assembly for a vehicle door comprising:

a load transfer element disposed generally within the vehicle door;

a first reaction surface disposed on said load transfer element and facing an outer panel of the vehicle door; and

a second reaction surface disposed on said load transfer element and facing an inner panel of the vehicle door, said second reaction surface formed generally opposite said first reaction surface;

wherein said load transfer element transfers an applied load from said first reaction surface to said second reaction surface while minimizing energy absorption of said applied load.

22. (New) The load transfer assembly of Claim 21, wherein said main body further comprises an attachment arm, said attachment arm operable to fixedly attach said load transfer element to said inner panel.

23. (New) The load transfer element of Claim 22, wherein said attachment arm is integrally formed with said load transfer element.

24. (New) The load transfer element of Claim 21, wherein said second reaction surface is in engagement with said inner panel.

25. (New) The load transfer element of Claim 21, wherein said first reaction surface is spaced apart from said outer panel.

26. (New) A door assembly comprising:

an inner panel;

an outer panel fixedly attached to said inner panel, said inner and outer panels defining an interstitial space therebetween; and

a load transfer element generally disposed within said interstitial space, said load transfer element operable to transfer an applied load from said outer panel to said inner panel while minimizing energy absorption of said applied load.

27. (New) The door assembly of Claim 26, wherein said load transfer element is fixedly attached to said inner panel.

28. (New) The door assembly of Claim 26, wherein said load transfer element is spaced apart from said outer panel.

29. (New) The door assembly of Claim 26, wherein said load transfer element is positioned within said interstitial space so as to avoid a test load from an FMVSS 214 barrier.

30. (New) A vehicle comprising:

a door aperture having a first structural member and a second structural member;

a door matingly received in said door aperture and supported by said first and second structural members, said door comprising:

an inner panel hingedly attached to said first structural member at a first end and selectively engaging said second structural member at a second end;

an outer panel fixedly attached to said inner panel, said inner and outer panels defining an interstitial space therebetween; and

a load transfer element generally disposed between said outer panel and said second structural member, said load transfer element operable to transfer an applied load from said outer panel to said second structural member while minimizing energy absorption of said applied load.

31. (New) The vehicle of Claim 30, wherein said sensor is disposed on said second structural member.

32. (New) The vehicle of Claim 30, wherein said sensor is generally disposed between said inner panel and said second structural member.

33. (New) The vehicle of Claim 30, wherein said sensor is an air bag sensor.
34. (New) The vehicle of Claim 30, wherein said load transfer element is fixedly attached to said inner panel.
35. (New) The door assembly of Claim 30, wherein said load transfer element is spaced apart from door outer panel.
36. (New) The door assembly of Claim 30, wherein said load transfer element is positioned within said interstitial space so as to avoid a test load from an FMVSS 214 barrier.